

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

SF601
215

FOREIGN ANIMAL
DISEASES REPORT



JULY-AUGUST 1975



HOG CHOLERA CONFIRMED ON
KUSAIE TRUST TERRITORIES

Hog cholera was confirmed on the island of Kusaie on June 27, 1975. Kusaie is in the Ponape District in the Caroline Trust Territories of the Pacific. The Trust Territories are not considered a part of the United States. They came under the jurisdiction of the United Nations following World War II and were placed in trust to the United States under the Department of the Interior pending determination by the people in the Trust Territories by 1980.

Epidemiological evidence substantiates hog cholera was introduced by one of the Trust Territory ships on April 11, 1975. The vessel had called at ports in countries considered hog cholera infected. A pig from a free area transported to Kusaie was fed ship garbage en route. In addition, supportive evidence indicates both ship stores and ship garbage were removed from the ship while at Kusaie. The premises to which the imported pig, ship stores, and wastes were distributed were the first to show disease. Delay in reporting and normal commerce of swine and pork products has resulted in spread of the disease to all areas of the island. The problem is complicated by an undetermined number of feral swine on the island.

Strict quarantine measures have been placed on the island of Kusaie to prevent the spread of hog cholera to the rest of the Ponape District and other islands in the Trust Territories. Plans for eradication through joint efforts of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture are proceeding. Plans include the depopulation of domestic and feral swine from the island as well as the disposal of all unconsumed pork products. Appropriate cleaning and disinfecting of premises is included. The Department of the Interior predator control experts are developing a plan to depopulate the feral swine. Once these measures are complete orderly repopulation of the swine herd will be undertaken.

HOG CHOLERA CONFIRMED IN TEXAS

On July 4, 1975, Veterinary Services Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, isolated hog cholera virus from U.S. swine. The South Central Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organization immediately mobilized a Hog Cholera Task Force to stamp out the disease. The infected herd consisting of 189 swine, was located near

Hereford, Deaf Smith County, Texas. The herd was depopulated on July 5, 1975. A second infected herd, believed to have been the initially infected herd, was located and depopulated on July 21, 1975. A joint State-Federal quarantine was established which covered approximately 100 square miles around Hereford, Texas. The quarantine was released on August 21, 1975, after extensive epidemiology and inspection revealed no additional infection.

Movements into and from the infected herd were quickly traced, resulting in depopulation of an additional 23 herds in Texas, and six in Oklahoma, because of exposure to infected animals.

An intensive hog cholera surveillance program was implemented in the Texas pan-handle area. Between May and July 1975, five order buyers, 12 packing houses, and three stockyards in 29 states and Puerto Rico were involved in traced sale movements of live swine and pork products. No source of the original infection was determined. The surveillance program will be maintained through October 1975, a 90 day period following the quarantine release.

Prior to July 4, 1975, the most recent outbreak of hog cholera was on May 4, 1974, in Puerto Rico and on February 7, 1974, in Grenada County, Mississippi.

Indemnity for the 3,484 swine in the two states totaled \$355,248. Over 18,000 swine on 194 premises were inspected at least one time. There were 243 premises on which disease investigations were conducted.

INTERNATIONAL SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICERS MEET AT HYATTSVILLE, MD

On July 22-23, 1975, the senior veterinary officers of Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, and the United States of America met in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Headquarters, Hyattsville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate a review of common objectives and goals of the animal health services of the countries represented. The group directed its attention to the changing sociological patterns related to the increasing importance of food production in the world. The countries represented were unique in the relatively disease-free status enjoyed by their respective livestock industries and consequently, their human populations.

An evaluation of existing and past policies and procedures was made along with a consideration of directions needed to accommodate for increasing demand for commerce in animals and animal products, and the exchange in technology required to improve animal health in their own countries as well as that in the rest of the world.

Discussions dealt with the need to conserve protein that might otherwise be destroyed in disease eradication programs. Additional method of dealing with the economic catastrophe associated with the introduction of Foot-and-Mouth disease to the countries represented were considered. Joint action that could be taken to provide more efficient and economically accepted methods for dealing with the disease were evaluated. Acknowledging the complexity and scale of possible future eradication programs, the need to pool resources was identified.

It was acknowledged that Foot-and-Mouth disease remains the current major deterrent of international commerce in animals and animal products, and that there is an urgent need to deal with Foot-and-Mouth disease more positively on a global basis by a greater regional collaboration. Use of existing international and regional animal health-related organizations should be further explored to achieve this objective.

Policy considerations and participation by technical specialists are required for further development of the proposals considered. It was the consensus of the group that it would be desirable to meet again this year and to further stabilize the objectives of the countries represented and to expand representation to include, initially, other interested Foot-and-Mouth disease-free countries.

The group recognized the special position of Ireland and the United Kingdom as full members of the European Economic Community (EEC), and accepted that the Commission might have to be consulted should interests of the EEC be in any way involved in any formal agreements that could emerge in time from the deliberations undertaken.

PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS DECLARED SCREWORM FREE

It took almost 2 billion sterile screwworm flies and 4 years of cooperative effort, but screwworms--a destructive livestock pest--have been eradicated from Puerto Rico and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were recognized as screwworm-free in ceremonies on July 2, 1975, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Cooperating governments and agencies were: the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

The cooperative eradication program in Puerto Rico was started by APHIS' Veterinary Services in June 1971. The estimated losses attributed to screwworms were over \$2.25 million in damages to livestock every year. The goal was to rid Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of this serious pest and at the same time gather data on eradicating screwworms in tropical environments. The latter information was for use in the current U.S.-Mexico eradication program. A program was developed to fit Puerto Rico's farm population and rugged landscape. A selected strain of native Puerto Rican flies was used in the program.

The last screwworm case was reported in November 1974. At this point, a concentrated surveillance program was initiated to be sure the last case had been found. The final release of sterile flies was made on May 3, 1975. After more than 6 months without a case of screwworms, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were officially declared screwworm free.

MEAT EXPORTING NATIONS WARNED OF NEED TO SEAL SHIPMENTS

Warnings have been issued to meat exporting nations and shipping lines emphasizing the need for veterinary officials to seal cargoes of fresh meat destined for the United States.

U.S. regulations require imported fresh, chilled or frozen meat of ruminants or swine to be sealed by the exporting country. Such seals assure cargo integrity and freedom from contamination if the carrier calls at ports, or otherwise transits the territory of a country not considered to be free of Rinderpest or Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD)--two highly contagious diseases of livestock.

The warnings resulted from a recent experience with imported beef. A ship carrying frozen beef had taken on an additional cargo of fish at a port in an FMD infected country without having its beef cargo sealed as required.

A review of records and affidavits indicated that the beef cargo area had not been opened at any time during transit and thus fulfilled the intent of APHIS sealing requirements. It was, therefore, determined that the disease risk was essentially nonexistent, and the meat was allowed to enter.

USDA PROPOSES ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR POULTRY IMPORTS

New disease surveillance measures were proposed in July 1975, to protect U.S. poultry from diseases that could be introduced into the country through the importation of poultry and hatching eggs.

The proposed changes in the federal import regulations include the following: eggs imported for hatching purposes, when shipped from countries in which exotic Newcastle disease exists, must be found free of disease under an approved surveillance system, or they must be hatched and brooded in the United States at APHIS approved quarantine facilities under prescribed conditions; imported poultry and hatching eggs must originate from flocks that have been tested and found free of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid; all hatching eggs must be fumigated with formaldehyde and shipped directly to the United States from the country of origin in new containers.

The proposed regulations would provide alternative methods under which eggs for hatching can safely be imported from countries in which exotic Newcastle disease exists through surveillance abroad or quarantined hatching and brooding in the United States.

Three methods of disease surveillance abroad would be approved: The placing of specially raised, unvaccinated and highly disease-susceptible "sentinel" chickens within the poultry flock being monitored; regular examination by an approved diagnostic laboratory of all birds that die within the flock under surveillance; or diagnostic tests, at regular intervals, of poultry flocks by means of tracheal and cloacal swabs, which would be cultured and examined in approved laboratories.

If importers take the option of hatching and brooding chicks in the United States under prescribed conditions, they would be required to transport the hatching eggs from the port of entry in sealed vehicles. Both hatching and brooding would have to occur in one facility that is isolated from all other domestic bird concentrations, and the chicks would have to remain in isolation until after the first 30 days of brooding. Dead embryos and dead chicks from the first week of brooding would be forwarded to the APHIS Veterinary Services Laboratories for virus isolation. High standards of sanitation, including cleaning and disinfection between hatchings, would be required.

USDA WARNS AGAINST IMPORTATION OR USE OF UNLICENSED POULTRY VACCINE

Poultrymen have been warned not to purchase or accept samples of a vaccine illegally offered to the American market by a Swiss company. "Arthrivax", purported to protect against avian viral arthritis, had been offered in magazine advertisements without a proper permit for importing the vaccine--either in commercial lots or for testing.

USDA RECOGNIZES PUREBRED CHAROLAIS CATTLE FOR DUTY FREE IMPORT FROM CANADA

Purebred Charolais cattle registered in Canada have been officially recognized as a breed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, thereby becoming eligible for duty free import into the United States.

Recognition of the breed will permit pedigreed animals to be granted free entry if accompanied by certificates of pure breeding.

Thirteen other breeds of cattle have been granted recognition registered in the Canadian Livestock Records in Ottawa. They are: Aberdeen-Angus, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Canadian, Dexter, Galloway, Guernsey, Hereford, Highland, Jersey, Lincoln Red, Red Poll, and Shorthorn. Holstein-Friesian cattle registered with the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada, Brantford, Ontario, have also been recognized.

EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE CONFIRMED IN RIO GRANDE VALLEY

On June 6, 1975, a private veterinary practitioner reported a small mixed poultry flock of 28 chickens was sick and dying in Pharr, Hidalgo County, Texas, in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

Specimens were collected and sent to the USDA's Veterinary Services Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, from birds revealing highly suspicious lesions of Newcastle disease. Newcastle virus was isolated on June 12, 1975, and confirmed as viscerotropic velogenic Newcastle disease (VVND) on June 17, 1975.

By June 18, 1975, all birds on the affected premises either died or were destroyed and the owner indemnified for disease losses. On June 20, 1975, a cooperative State-Federal Task Force quarantined an area approximately 4 square miles in Pharr prohibiting movements of poultry, poultry products, and pet birds into, out of, or within the area.

Surveillance of 189 neighboring premises in the quarantined area revealed no further spread of the disease.

On July 24, 1975, after extensive surveillance efforts, all quarantines were released.

Previously in Texas, VVND was diagnosed in Hidalgo and Bulverde in May and June, 1974. More recently in the United States, VVND was isolated in Bayshore, New York, in March 1975. All these outbreaks were small and quickly eradicated.

All mentioned outbreaks involved birds of imported background and/or proximity to areas where exotic Newcastle is known to exist. This further illustrates the need for continued extensive monitoring of such populations of birds and selected areas to detect as early as possible the introduction of VVND into the United States.

ORNITHOSIS PROGRAM - TEXAS 1975

As of May 26, 1975, all Texas turkey flocks were required by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to have a special permit issued by a State or Federal veterinarian certifying that flocks have been inspected, blood tested, and found not infected with ornithosis. The program will continue until December 31, 1975.

The purpose of the program, carried out cooperatively by the Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas A&M University, and APHIS, is to preclude ornithosis infected turkeys from being taken into USDA inspected slaughter plants. By this action USDA poultry inspectors and employees of turkey slaughtering plants are protected from exposure to ornithosis on the job.

All Texas turkey flocks going to slaughter must be inspected and bled on the farm. Flocks clinically sick with ornithosis or showing a positive reaction to blood or tissue tests will be quarantined by the Texas Animal Health Commission and undergo treatment with antibiotics in the feed for a minimum of 21 days under veterinary supervision. Flocks will be reinspected after treatment and, if healthy, a permit for slaughter will be issued. All flocks, clinically healthy with negative blood tests, will be allowed immediate movement to slaughter.

By July 31, 207 flocks consisting of 2,348,371 birds had been certified eligible for slaughter under this program. Fourteen flocks were determined positive serologically.

During 1974, three States had 102 confirmed and suspected cases of ornithosis and one death in plant employees and poultry inspectors attributed to turkey flocks originating in Texas. No additional human cases in USDA inspected slaughter plants have been reported after program activities were initiated.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

In June and July, 1975, a total of 11 investigations of suspicious foreign animal diseases were reported in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, New Mexico, New Jersey, and Tennessee. All investigations were negative for foreign animal diseases.

During FY 1975, 52 suspected foreign animal disease investigations were conducted. In no case was a foreign animal disease determined to be the cause.

Thirty-one veterinarians in FY 1975 were trained at Veterinary Services Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, and Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory, New York, as foreign animal disease diagnosticians. These veterinarians were employed by USDA's Veterinary Services, various State Departments of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and three foreign countries.

WORLD DISEASE REPORTS*

Country	Date 1975	New Outbreaks	Country	Date 1975	New Outbreaks
---------	-----------	---------------	---------	-----------	---------------

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Argentina	March 16-April 15	22	Italy	June 1-15	6
Austria	April 1, 1974 - April 15, 1975	1	Ivory Coast	Dec. 1, 1974 - Feb. 28, 1975	10
Bolivia	March 1-31	3	Kenya	March 1-April 31	10
Brazil	Jan. 11-March 21	831	Lebanon	Feb. 1-May 31	17
Cameroon	Oct. 1-Dec. 3, 1974	2	Nigeria	May 1-June 30	2
Colombia	April 1-30	29	Paraguay	April 19-May 16	2
Czechoslovakia	April 1-May 31	1**	Peru	March 1-31	2**
Ecuador	Jan. 1-May 31	18+26**		April 16-May 15	3
Egypt	April 1-May 31	2	Spain	March 1-31	12
Germany	April 1-30	1	Syria	March 1-31	1
Ghana	Jan. 1-Feb. 28	1	Tanzania	Feb. 1-April 30	26
Hong Kong	May 1-June 30	11	Chad	Jan. 1-March 31	2
India	Jan. 1-31	190	Thailand	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1974	24
Indonesia	Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 1974	3797**	Turkey	March 16-May 31	54
Iran	April 1-June 30	46	U.S.S.R.	Feb. 1-April 30	33
Iraq	April 16-30	12	Uruguay	Jan. 1-March 31	20
	June 16-30	10	Venezuela	Jan. 1-March 31	7

Rinderpest

India	Jan. 1-31	13	Mauritania	Jan. 1-Feb. 28	1
-------	-----------	----	------------	----------------	---

Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia

Angola	Feb. 1-April 30	9	Ivory Coast	Dec. 1, 1974 - Feb. 28, 1975	3
Cameroon	March 1-Dec. 31, 1974	3	Mauritania	Jan. 1-Feb. 28	1
Ghana	Jan. 1-March 31	11	Nigeria	April 1-June 30	8
Guinea	Jan. 1-March 31	9	Chad	Jan. 1-March 31	5

Lumpy Skin Disease

Bulgaria	March 16-April 30	3	South Africa	April 1-May 31	6
Greece	Feb. 1-28	18	Chad	Jan. 1-March 31	3
Malagasy	Jan. 1-31	7			

Sheep Pox

Greece	Feb. 1-April 30	12	Lebanon	Feb. 1-May 31	6
India	Jan. 1-31	10	Morocco	March 1-May 31	182
Iran	April 1-June 30	30	Tunisia	April 1-May 31	2
Iraq	April 16-30	108**	Turkey	Feb. 16-March 31	156
	June 16-30	35**	U.S.S.R.	Feb. 1-April 30	2
Israel	Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 1974	40			

African Swine Fever

Angola	Feb. 1-April 30	2	Spain	April 1-May 31	116
Portugal	April 1-May 31	3			

Teschen Disease

Austria	Jan. 1-June 15	3	Malagasy	Dec. 1, 1974 - Jan. 31, 1975	17
---------	----------------	---	----------	---------------------------------	----

Swine Vesicular Disease

Austria	June 1-15	1	Japan	April 1-30	1
Italy	April 1-July 15	7	United Kingdom	April 16-June 15	10

(*Extracted from International Office of Epizootics, Monthly Circulars #341, 342, and 343).

(**Cases)

WESTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS - MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA

In early summer of this year, the Red River flooded into the valley area of eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Subsequently, health officials initiated a mosquito surveillance program that indicated an unusually high mosquito population density in the area.

Cases of equine encephalitis were first observed in early June, and a total of 192 cases of clinical encephalitis was reported through August 9, 1975. Of the 192 ill horses, 24 unvaccinated cases had sera collected, and 17 of these samples had high hemagglutination inhibition (HI) and serum neutralization antibody titers to Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) and no titers to Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Surveillance in North Dakota and Minnesota has uncovered 27 human cases of acute, febrile central nervous system disease, with onset dates from July 10 to August 6, 1975. In three cases, including two deaths, the diagnosis of WEE infection has been serologically confirmed by 4-fold or greater rise in HI antibody titer.

In addition to the intensive local and state mosquito control measures that were begun in Minnesota July 26, aerial spraying of ultra low volume malathion over population centers was begun August 1, 1975. Twelve counties in eastern North Dakota have received two applications of insecticide, and spraying of 11 western Minnesota counties began August 12, 1975.

(From Morbidity and Mortality, Weekly Report, Vol. 24, No. 32).